



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Second District

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Third District

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Fourth District

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Fifth District

June 20, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

## WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

### Earmark Agreement

House Democratic and Republican leaders have reached agreement on how to handle earmarks in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 appropriations bills. The Homeland Security and Military Construction-Veterans Affairs spending bills were passed by the House without any earmarks. If any earmark is added to any appropriations bill in conference committee, points of order may be offered against the conference reports on the House floor. The Energy and Water appropriations bill, which currently does not include any earmarks, is being considered on the House floor this week. However, an earmarks package will be added to the bill before it is sent to the Senate. The remaining FFY 2008 appropriations bills will include earmarks in them when they reach the House floor.

### FFY 2008 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

On June 15, 2007, the House passed, 268 to 150, its FFY 2008 Homeland Security appropriations bill (H.R. 2638) while the Senate Appropriations Committee passed its version (S. 1644) last Thursday. The House bill includes \$37.4 billion in discretionary spending, which is \$2.1 billion more than requested by the President. The Senate version includes \$37.6 billion in homeland security spending. The White House has

indicated that the President would veto any appropriations bills which exceed his overall budget requests.

As seen in the attached table, the House bill increases funding for all of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant programs of County interest while the Senate version increases funding for most of those programs. Both bills reject the President's budget proposals to significantly reduce or eliminate funding for the State Homeland Security Grant, State and Local Law Enforcement Prevention Grant, Firefighting Grant, and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response programs. The Senate bill does not include the \$50 million for a new Interoperable Communications Grant that is included in H.R. 2638.

### **FFY 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill**

On June 19, 2007, the House began consideration of H.R. 2641, the FFY 2008 Energy and Water appropriations bill. As approved by the House Appropriations Committee, H.R. 2641 provides a total of \$31.6 billion for Energy Department programs and activities, water projects, and some defense-related activities. Of County interest, the bill proposes \$5.58 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, a \$246 million increase over FFY 2007 and \$713 million more than the President's FFY 2008 budget request. H.R. 2641 includes \$2.65 billion in funding for Corps operations and maintenance for civil works projects, which is \$682 million above the FFY 2007 level.

The President's Proposed FFY 2008 Budget includes funding for a number of civil works projects in the County, including projects administered by the Departments of Beaches and Harbors and Public Works. As indicated earlier, H.R. 2641 does not include any earmarks for individual projects, but earmarks will be added later to the bill.

### **West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Medical Center**

On June 14, 2007, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a FFY 2008 Military Construction-Veterans Affairs (VA) appropriations bill (S. 1645), which includes language by Senator Feinstein that would prohibit the VA from issuing enhanced-use lease agreements, selling, or disposing any portion of the 388-acre West Los Angeles VA Medical Center. Current law prohibits the development of 109 acres of the property. The House-passed appropriations bill (H.R. 2642) does not include similar language. Both bills would appropriate nearly \$4 billion more than requested by the President. While the White House has threatened to veto any FFY 2008 appropriations bill which includes more overall funding than requested by the President, the White House issued a statement last week that suggested that the President will not veto the Military Construction-VA spending bill even if it were to include more funding.

### **Gang Abatement and Prevention Act of 2007**

On June 14, 2007, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved S. 456 (Feinstein, D-CA), the Gang Abatement and Prevention Act of 2007, after approving a substitute amendment by Senator Feinstein, which included language to tighten the definition of gang membership, increase funding aimed at gang prevention and intervention, and add a new Federal crime for the interstate intimidation of witnesses.

As approved by the committee, the bill would authorize more than \$1 billion, subject to available annual appropriations, over the next five years for a coordinated approach that will combine Federal, State, and local anti-gang law enforcement efforts, expanded witness protection, and gang prevention services. This amount includes an authorization of \$375 million for a newly established High Intensity Interstate Gang Activity Area Program, half of which is for enforcement and half of which is for prevention and intervention in heavily gang-impacted areas; \$270 million for new witness protection grants; \$125 million for a new gang prevention block grant; \$100 million for grants to state and local governments to hire more prosecutors or fund equipment, technology, and training designed to target gang members; \$25 million for new grants to encourage innovative approaches to gang prevention and expanded after-school activities; and \$24 million for providing mentoring services to at-risk youth.

### **Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Reauthorization**

The Senate passed, by voice vote, S. 231 (Feinstein, D-CA) on May 24, 2007, which would authorize \$1.095 billion a year for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) through FFY 2012. Current law authorizes \$1.095 billion for JAG in FFY 2006 and such sums as may be necessary for FFYs 2007 through 2009. S. 231 has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee, which has not yet scheduled any action on it. There is not any similar House bill to reauthorize JAG, which expires on September 30, 2009.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:MT:hg

Attachment

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist

**FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2008 FUNDING LEVELS  
FOR PROGRAMS OF COUNTY INTEREST IN H.R. 2638  
HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS BILL  
(in millions)**

<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Enacted 2007</b>	<b>President 2008</b>	<b>House<sup>1</sup> 2008</b>	<b>Senate<sup>2</sup> 2008</b>
State Homeland Security Grant	\$525	\$ 250	\$550	\$525
State and Local Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention	375	0	400	375
High-Threat Urban Area Grants	770	800	800	820
Rail and Transit Security	175	175	400	400
Port Security	210	210	400	400
Interoperable Communications Grants <sup>3</sup>	0	0	50	0
Emergency Management Performance Grants	200	200	300	300
Firefighting Grants	547	300	570	560
SAFER <sup>4</sup>	115	0	230	140
Urban Search and Rescue Teams	25	25	35	30
Metropolitan Medical Response System	33	0	50	33
REAL ID Act Implementation <sup>5</sup>	0	0	50	0

**Footnote**

- <sup>1</sup> As passed by the House Appropriations Committee on June 15, 2007.
- <sup>2</sup> As approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 14, 2007.
- <sup>3</sup> Represents a new grant to assist the State and local governments in meeting their interoperable communications needs.
- <sup>4</sup> SAFER refers to the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Program.
- <sup>5</sup> Funds grants to assist States in developing identification documents, such as drivers' licenses, which meet REAL ID Act requirements.